

Claims

1. An arrangement including a switching network, a first switch connected to said network through trunks, said first switch having lines adapted to operate with telephonic instruments and a digital port through which information contained in said first switch can be accessed, and through which control signals can be applied to control operation of said first switch, and a second switch connected to said network through trunks, said second switch having lines adapted to operate with telephonic instruments and a digital port through which information contained in said second switch can be accessed, and through which control signals can be applied to control operation of said second switch, characterized by:

a memory in said first switch that contains a directive that each call destined to a specified line A of said lines of said first switch is to be forwarded, through said network, to a specified line B of said second switch, and to forward a caller-ID signal associated with said each call to said line B.

2. The arrangement of claim 1 further characterized by a memory in said second switch that contains caller ID information of said line A.

3. The arrangement of claim 2 where said caller ID information in said second switch is associated with said line B.

4. The arrangement of claim 1 further characterized by
a memory in said second switch that contains, in association with said line B, caller ID information of said line A,
a telephonic instrument connected to said line B, and
a means for implementing at said telephonic instrument a facsimile of a calling plan of said line A.

5. The arrangement of claim 4 where said means translates signal activations at said telephonic instrument to develop control signals for said second switch, to implement said facsimile of said calling plan.

6. The arrangement of claim 5 where said means comprises a processor that translated information obtained from said first switch.

7. The arrangement of claim 6 where said processor is a (1) processor that controls said second switch, (2) a processor that is co-located with said second switch, or (3) a processor that is remote from said second switch, with which said second switch communicates via said digital port of said second switch.

8. The arrangement of claim 1 further characterized by means for digital communication between said digital port of said first switch and said digital port of said second switch that requires no dial-up to proceed with said digital communication.

9. The arrangement of claim 8 where said means for digital communication includes a second network to which said digital port of said first switch is coupled, and to which said digital port of said second switch is coupled.

10. The arrangement of claim 9 where said second network is secure from various attacks.

11. The arrangement of claim 9 where said second network includes means to enhance security of said network from attack.

12. The arrangement of claim 11 where said means to enhance security comprises a gateway processor interposed between said digital port of said first switch and said second network and a gateway processor interposed between said digital port of said second switch and said second network.

13. The arrangement of claim 9 where said second network is a packet network, a private network, a virtual private network, or subsumed by said switching network.

14. The arrangement of claim 9 where said second network is a connection-less network.

15. The arrangement of claim 9 further characterized by a go-between processor coupled to said second network that interacts with said first switch through said digital port of said first switch, and interacts with said second switch through said digital port of said second switch.

16. The arrangement of claim 15 where said go-between processor causes said directive to be stored in said memory of said first switch.

17. The arrangement of claim 1 further characterized by a memory in said second switch that contains caller ID information of said line A.

18. The arrangement of claim 17 where said caller ID information in said second switch is associated with said line B.

19. The arrangement of claim 18 further characterized by means for digital communication between said digital port of said first switch and said digital port of said second switch that requires no dial-up to proceed with said digital communication.

20. The arrangement of claim 19 further characterized by a go-between processor coupled to said means for digital communication.

21. The arrangement of claim 20 where said go-between processor causes said directive to be stored in said memory of said first switch.

22. The arrangement of claim **21** where said go-between processor causes storage of said caller ID information of said line A in said memory in said second switch.

23. The arrangement of claim **22** where said go between processor participates in translations of signals provided by said second switch via said means for digital communication.

24. A method for providing virtual telephonic presence at a first telephonic instrument served by a first switch while physically present at a second telephonic instrument served by a second switch, comprising the steps of:

installing a directive in said first PBX to (a) forward to said second telephonic instrument each call, having and associated caller ID information, that is destined to said first telephonic instrument and (b) cause said caller ID information to be provided to said second switch; and

installing a directive in said second PBX to provide said caller ID information to said second telephonic instrument in same manner as caller ID information is provided to said second telephonic instrument when calls arrive to said second switch, destined to said second telephonic instrument, from other callers.

25. A method for providing virtual telephonic presence at a first telephonic instrument served by a first switch while physically present at a second telephonic instrument served by a second switch, comprising the steps of:

obtaining calling plan information of said first telephonic instrument

installing a directive in said second PBX to create, at said second telephonic instrument a facsimile of said calling plan.

26. The method of claim **25** where, as part of said directive a caller ID associated with said first telephone instrument is installed in said second switch, and associated with said second telephone.

27. The method of claim **26** where said caller ID that is installed corresponds to full telephone number of said first telephone.

28. The method of claim **25** further comprising the step of storing said calling plan information obtained in said step of obtaining in a memory associated with a processor.

29. The method of claim **25** further comprising the step of storing said calling plan information obtained in said step of obtaining in a memory associated with a processor that is part of said second switch, an adjunct of said second switch, or is remote to said second switch and is reachable by said second switch through a network.

30. A method for providing virtual telephonic presence at a first telephonic instrument served by a first switch while physically present at a second telephonic instrument served by a second switch, comprising the steps of:

forwarding to said second telephonic instrument each call that is destined to said first telephonic instrument;

causing caller ID information associated with said call to be provided to said second switch.

31. The method of claim **30** further comprising the step of providing said caller ID information to said second telephonic instrument in same manner as caller ID information is provided to said second telephonic instrument when calls arrive to said second switch, destined to said second telephonic instrument, from other callers.

32. A method for providing virtual telephonic presence at a first telephonic instrument served by a first switch while physically present at a second telephonic instrument served by a second switch, comprising the steps of:

receiving a connection request at said second telephonic instrument;

determining that a directive exists with respect to said second telephonic instrument that a foreign calling plan is to be emulated;

translating said connection request in accordance with information regarding said calling plan to create translated connection request; and
undertaking to establish a connection pursuant to said translated connection request.

33. The method of claim **32** where said information regarding said calling plan is accessed in course of said translating from memory of said second switch, from memory of a processor that is an adjunct of said second switch, or from memory of a processor that is reachable by said second switch through a network.

34. The method of claim **32** where said information regarding said calling plan is accessed in course of said translating from memory of a processor that is an adjunct of said second switch, or from memory of a processor that is reachable by said second switch through a network, and said translating is performed by said processor.